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ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE ADOPTS U.S. DELEGATION RESOLUTION CONDEMNING RISE OF ANTI-SEMITISM IN EUROPE

WASHINGTON, D.C. - An American delegation to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Parliamentary Assembly, which included U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL), and representatives of the German Bundestag held a panel presentation to highlight the alarming escalation of anti-Semitic violence occurring throughout the OSCE region.□□

"Far too many incidents of anti-Semitism are taking place in our allies' cities, including a gasoline bomb attack on a Brussels synagogue and the beating of Jewish students in Berlin.□ These acts of bigotry are a grave violation of human rights and European leaders must take action to bring the perpetrators to justice," said Schakowsky.

Distinguished presenters included Mr. Abraham Foxman, National Director, Anti-Defamation League; Dr. Shimon Samuels, Director for International Liaison Simon Wiesenthal Center - Paris; Dr. Wolfgang Benz, Director of the Center for anti-Semitic Research at the Technical University of Berlin; and Dr. Julius Schoeps, Professor of Modern History, University of Potsdam & Director of the Moses Mendelssohn Center for European-Jewish Studies.

Furthermore, the U.S. delegation introduced a resolution which was adopted by the OSCE parliamentary Assembly that *"Unequivocally condemns the alarming escalation of anti-Semitic violence throughout the OSCE region;"*

calls on OSCE states to use

"aggressive law enforcement by local and national authorities, including thorough investigation of anti-Semitic criminal acts, apprehension of perpetrators, initiation of appropriate criminal prosecutions and judicial proceedings;"

and urges all states to declare violence against

"Jews and Jewish cultural properties as anti-Semitic."

"The resolution is an acknowledgment by OSCE member nations that acts of hate and terror against Jewish men, women, and children and Jewish institutions are on the rise across Europe. This is a matter of serious concern that demands immediate attention," Schakowsky added.

Schakowsky returned to Washington, D.C. in time to vote for H.Res. 393, legislation condemning the rise of anti-Semitism in Europe. The legislation states that *"the governments of Europe should take all necessary steps to protect the safety and well-being of their respective Jewish communities; and (2) the governments of Europe should make a concerted effort to cultivate an atmosphere of cooperation and*

reconciliation among the Jewish and non-Jewish residents of Europe."

□ Schakowsky is an original cosponsor of H.Res. 393.